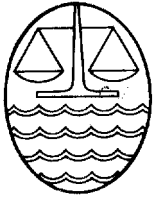




UNITED NATIONS

THIRD CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA



Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.14
22 August 1974

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

THIRD COMMITTEE

Note by the Chairman of the informal sessions of the Third Committee
on item 12 (Preservation of the Marine Environment) addressed to the
Chairman of the Third Committee

Mr. Chairman:

In my capacity as Chairman of the informal sessions of the Third Committee, organized to consider item 12 entitled "Preservation of the Marine Environment", I have the honour to inform you as follows:

There were 11 plenary meetings of the informal sessions on item 12 held between 22 July and 22 August. In addition, there were 11 meetings of an informal drafting and negotiating group open to participation by all delegations, which was established for the purpose of working out draft articles acceptable to all delegations or to reduce the number of alternatives in those cases where it was impossible to arrive at a single text. I was also Chairman of that group.

The work of the informal sessions was based on all the formal proposals and informal working papers submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (see document A/9021, vol. I, pp. 86-102 and 106-107 and see also document CRP/MP/1 and Corr.1). The informal sessions also considered formal proposals submitted by various delegations to the Third Committee of the Conference (A/CONF.62/C.3/L.2, L.4, L.5, L.6, L.7 and L.10).

The draft articles prepared by the Sea-Bed Committee were reviewed, in accordance with the programme agreed upon during the organization of the work of the informal sessions. In the course of that review, various delegations submitted amendments, additions or new texts. Those amendments, additions or new texts were also taken as a basis for the work and were issued, so that they could be considered, in a series of informal working papers (CRP/MP Nos. 2-9, Rev.1 and 11-12, Rev.1).

In the light of the documentation mentioned above, the drafting and negotiating group prepared and transmitted to the informal plenary sessions for consideration an informal working paper (CRP/MP/14/Rev.1) containing new draft articles. At its ... meeting on 22 August 1974, the informal sessions decided to transmit to the Third Committee the new draft articles, which were the result of the deliberations of the informal sessions on item 12 and of the work of the drafting and negotiating group. Those drafts are contained in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.15. Those texts to which no reservations have been made, may be regarded as texts approved at the level of the informal sessions, without prejudice to the decisions on them which may be adopted by the Third Committee.

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In connexion with the crucial item identified by the informal sessions as "Standards, jurisdiction and enforcement", the informal sessions did not have time to work out single texts or at least to reduce the alternatives reproduced in document A/9021 and document CRP/MP/9 and Add.1 and Corr.1. The informal sessions agreed on the following method of work, based on the various sources of pollution, which will be very useful for future work (see document CRP/MP/10 and Corr.1)*.

Method of work for consideration of questions relating to
standards, jurisdiction and enforcement

1. Pollution from land-based sources.
2. Marine pollution from activities concerning exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed within the areas of national jurisdiction.
3. Marine pollution from activities concerning exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed beyond the areas of national jurisdiction.
4. Pollution from vessels.
 - flag State
 - coastal State
 - port State
5. Marine pollution from the atmosphere.
6. Pollution from dumping of wastes at sea.
 - flag State
 - coastal State
 - port State
7. Other sources of marine pollution.

The informal sessions could not undertake consideration of all the items contained in the proposals formally submitted to the Sea-Bed Committee and the Conference and they will be considered at a later stage.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) José L. VALLARTA

* See also document CRP/MP/13.